



1133 Reston Ave., Herndon, VA 20170 | 703-437-5020

## NEWS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

December 28, 2025

Updates and more information at: [gslcva.org/](https://gslcva.org/)  
Livestream: [Facebook Live](#) | [YouTube](#) | [Vimeo](#)  
Preschool: [Facebook](#)  
Vanco online giving: [gslcva.org/giving](https://gslcva.org/giving)  
Text to Give: 833-761-1059



**Next Sunday's Readings:** Jeremiah 31:7-14 | Ephesians 1:3-14 | John 1:1-18

### Above & Beyond fall catalog

Good Shepherd's latest edition of the Above & Beyond (A&B) catalog has been released, with hard copies available in the church entry area.

[Check out our Giving webpage for an electronic copy.](#)

Are you interested in giving to these initiatives? Unsure of where to give? Please check out:

- Preschool Expansion Support: \$40,000
- Choir Section Leaders: \$23,250
- Special Worship Music: \$5,000

We invite you to prayerfully consider lending your hand to these initiatives, which inspire connection and growth within our church family and beyond. Every contribution, no matter the size, is a vital thread in the beautiful tapestry of our shared mission. Thank you to all who have already stepped forward in faith. Your kindness shines brightly!

### End-of-Year Giving

In order for your gifts to be credited to calendar year 2025, they must be hand delivered or postmarked to GSLC on or before **December 31, 2025**. If you would like to make a stock contribution before the end of the year, phone or email Christine Papadopoulos at Merrill Lynch, 703-464-8813, or [CPapadopoulos@ml.com](mailto:CPapadopoulos@ml.com). **The transaction must be completed by December 31, 2025.** Please send a letter or email to the church office to let us know that you have made a stock contribution and where you would like the funds placed (General Fund, Above & Beyond, etc.). Questions? Contact Business Manager Georgia Thorstenson ([georgia@gslcva.org](mailto:georgia@gslcva.org)).

### Upcoming Events

#### Worship Services

**Sunday, January 4:** 8:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. (Traditional worship services)\*

\*Check out our [website](#) for more information

#### Choir Practice

**Sunday, January 4:** 9:30 a.m. (choir room)\*

\*No choir practice today, Sunday, December 28

#### Sunday School

**Sunday, January 4:** 9:30 a.m. (kids, youth, adults)

#### Life Groups

**Friday, January 2 (Men's Friday Bible Study):** 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. at Panera Bread (Elden Street)\*

\*Check out our [Calendar on the website](#) for more information

#### Community Service

**Monday, December 29:** 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms)

**Tuesday, December 30:** 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry (pantry rooms)

**Friday, January 2:** 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. SLHS Food Pantry transport for distribution at SLHS (lower parking lot)

\*Check out our [website](#) for more opportunities to serve

### Good Shepherd Lutheran School—hiring

Do you have afternoons free from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.? Are you looking to work up to 10 hours per week? Good Shepherd Lutheran School is in need of aftercare staff beginning in January. Interested? Contact Sarah Brazell ([preschool@gslcva.org](mailto:preschool@gslcva.org))



### Special Bible Study about Pets

Where do pets go after their time on earth? Is there a pet heaven? Are serpents, named in Genesis, not included in this possible pet heaven? What does God's Word reveal about these issues? Recently, Pastor Johann has fielded many of these questions, in light of numerous GSLC members' pets' passing during the last two years as well as many other pets of members currently suffering from severe illness. Join Pastor Johann for an hour of exploring these issues on **Sunday, January 18**, right after the 11:00 a.m. service in Room 203. Since a light lunch will be provided, please sign-up either through the QR code to the right or on the sign-up list in the church entryway.



### Busy Bee Bags

God gave kids their wiggles and giggles, and we welcome them joyfully in His house. To keep little hands engaged, we offer "Busy Bee Bags" during worship—but supplies are running low.

Help us refill them by shopping through our [online registry \(https://tinyurl.com/4s4sevzy\)](https://tinyurl.com/4s4sevzy) today!

### Winter Walk of Lights

Join us on **Sunday, January 4, at 5:00 p.m. at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens**, 9750 Meadowlark Gardens Ct, Vienna, for their **Winter Walk of Lights!** The lights are different every year! The walk is .6 miles long, and there is an incline, but the path is paved and is stroller- and walking-assistance-device-friendly; there are benches along the way. Linger at the fascinating light displays - fun for all ages. Buy a hot drink or s'mores. **GSLC members' & friends' cost is highly discounted at \$5 per person (aged 2 and over). Bring checks made out to GSLC or cash for your tickets on the night.** (Please write *Winter Walk* on a check memo line.) Questions? Ask Jeannie Johns, John Putilo, Drew Lipman or June McGurn (our contact info is in the online directory) or email ([gslc@gslcva.org](mailto:gslc@gslcva.org)) for more information.

If you haven't already signed up, sign up here (<https://tinyurl.com/5dsrmkh4>).

### Sign up for the online church directory

We encourage you to join Good Shepherd's online church directory. It's a great way to connect with other members and to help you match names with faces. We use the "Instant Church Directory" app – an OPT-IN only, so if you don't provide us with information on you and your family, you will NOT appear in the directory. To sign up, send the name and email address for ONE PERSON in your family to the church office ([gslc@gslcva.org](mailto:gslc@gslcva.org)). Members and non-members who regularly attend GSLC are invited to join our online directory. Please let us know if you'd like to join our directory community!

## Columbarium: Selection of Niches

The columbarium garden is now complete! We hope you’ve had a chance to visit and enjoy its beauty. We will be in contact with those members who have purchased a niche to complete paperwork and select their location. Thanks to all who have helped make the columbarium garden a reality.

### Community Service

**South Lakes Food Pantry – Holiday Distribution!** Please note that the pantry has special holiday hours.

**NO-CONTACT Donation curbside drop offs: Monday, December 29, 2:00 to 4:00 p.m., Tuesdays, December 30, 10 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.** Loading for distribution will move to **Friday, January 2, 2:30 -3:30.** *If you are interested in helping, email Holly Vanderhoof*

**URGENT NEEDS:** peanut butter, dried beans (1lb bags), rice (1lb bags), jelly, bar soap

**Do you know of someone who needs help finding resources in our area?** For a list of comprehensive services in our area please call or visit: 2-1-1 Virginia. 2-1-1 Virginia is a source of information about community and social services available in Fairfax County and statewide. When you dial 2-1-1, a trained professional will listen to your situation and suggest sources to help using one of the largest databases of health and human services in Virginia.

**Volunteers needed! The Closet of Greater Herndon. Congregation scheduled days have returned to The Closet! Good Shepherd’s next volunteer days are January 27, February 18, March 12, April 3 .** The Closet **needs** volunteers to maintain day to day operations. Please consider donating some time to this valuable resource in our community. Scan the QR code to the right to signup or visit <http://tinyurl.com/5n7kbmb2>.



**Hypothermia Shelter Meals – SIGNUP OPEN!** Every Wednesday through the end of March (17 weeks), we prepare, provide, and serve hot meals for 40 guests. **Would you like to know what it is like to prepare food for the Hypothermia Prevention Program?** The best way to think about preparing the food is to consider what you would bring if this were an outdoor gathering. You need to provide food in disposable containers and include any needed (sturdy) plates, bowls, cups, napkins, eating utensils. One consideration is that the clients often don’t have a full set of teeth - shredded or ground meat is preferable to chunks of meat. The same is true about the fruit. This year the need is much greater as they are serving about 80 people. **We will be helping with that number by providing a minimum of 40 meals.** Serving in person is also back this year but you still have the option to drop off the meals! Volunteers must be at least 18 years old to serve in the shelter. For more information and to signup visit: <https://tinyurl.com/4n5m8b9u> or scan the QR code to the right.



**Women Giving Back.** Come and support women and children in crisis on a first step to stability by providing quality clothing at no cost, assisted by a caring and committed community. From grassroots humble beginnings, Women Giving Back has grown into an organization that serves more than 24,000 women and children in need every year.

Visit: <https://womengivingback.org> for details.

**Cornerstones Volunteer Opportunities:** Cornerstones offers a multitude of volunteer opportunities to serve members of our community. Opportunities include Farmers Market Gleaning, Career Mentors, Financial Literacy Mentors, Interpreters, Front Desk Assistants, Pathways to Sustainable Employment Program Volunteers and so much more. Visit <https://tinyurl.com/mvzzu4ue> to sign up for a volunteer hub and to learn more about these opportunities as well as their virtual volunteer orientation sessions.

### Stay Connected—Here’s How!

Curious about what’s happening at Good Shepherd? Wondering when our next service is, or what exciting events are on the horizon? The Friday eBlast and the News & Announcements insert deliver a full rundown of service times, upcoming events, and important updates—all in one convenient place. No access to the eBlast? No problem! Stay in the loop by visiting our social media pages on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#), or by checking out our [website](#) . These platforms are regularly updated with our latest updates.

### GSLC Tax-Free Donations

Are you 70½ and taking an IRA distribution? Make your donation to GSLC tax free through Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCD) directly from your IRA. This is the only method under U.S. tax law to donate Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) amounts tax-free. It’s available to IRA owners age 70½ or older. You can transfer up to \$100,000 per year directly from your IRA to one or more IRS-approved charities. The amount of the QCD is excluded from your taxable income and fulfills your RMD. For married couples, each spouse with their own IRA can give \$100,000, effectively \$200,000 combined. Check with your investment advisor for details and applicable regulations.